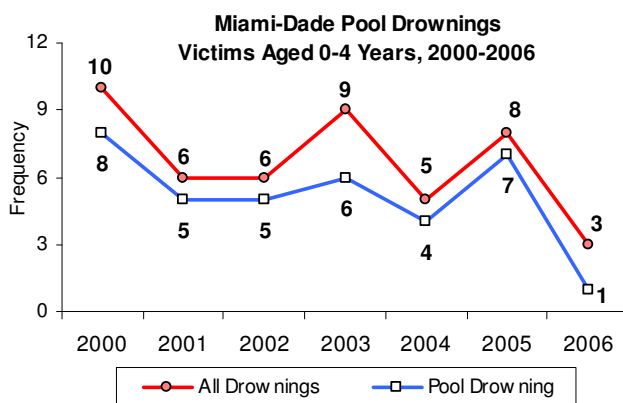




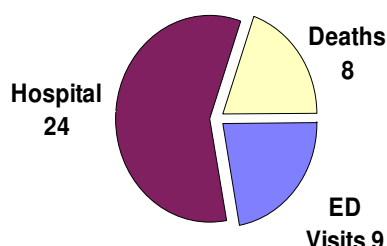
July 2007

Drowning and Near-Drowning to Children 0-4 Years of Age Miami-Dade County, 2000-2006

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY INJURY FACTS



**Age 0-4 Drowning and Near-Drowning
2005 ED Visits, Hospitalizations, Deaths**



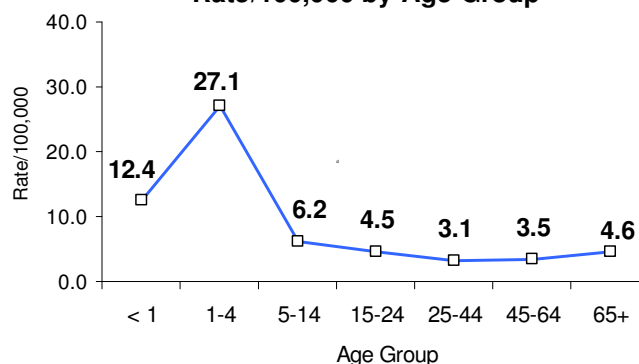
Groups at Risk

The 2005 fatal and nonfatal drowning data showed:

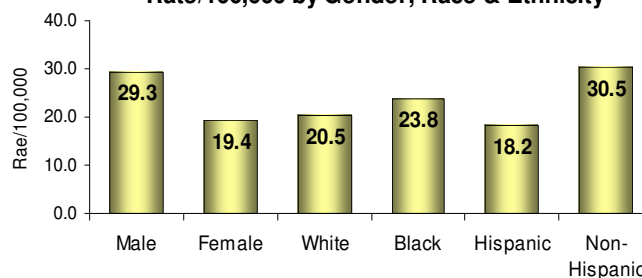
- Children aged 1-4 had a drowning and near-drowning rate 2 times higher than infants aged <1 year and at least 4 times greater than all older age groups.
- Males aged 0-4 accounted for 61% of drowning and near-drowning incidents in 2005. The rate for drowning or near-drowning was >50% higher for males than females.
- There was little difference in drowning and near-drowning rates between White and Black children in 2005.
- Hispanic children had significantly lower drowning or near-drowning rates than Non-Hispanic children, due mostly to a lower incidence of near-drowning cases.

- Drowning is the third leading cause of death to Miami-Dade County children aged 0-4 years and the leading cause of all deaths to children aged 1-4 years.
- Miami-Dade County had the second highest number of child drowning deaths (43) among all Florida counties between 2000-2006. However, since 2004, the cumulative drowning rate for children aged 0-4 years was more than 50% lower than the drowning rate for the entire state. In 2006, Miami-Dade experienced its lowest incidence of drowning for this age group with 3 total deaths and only 1 swimming pool-related death.
- Nonfatal drowning data from both hospitals and emergency departments became available statewide in 2005. Fatal and nonfatal drowning data for 2005 showed that for every child 4 years and younger who drowns, 4 more are hospitalized or treated in emergency departments for nonfatal submersion injuries.

**2005 Drowning & Near-Drowning
Rate/100,000 by Age Group**



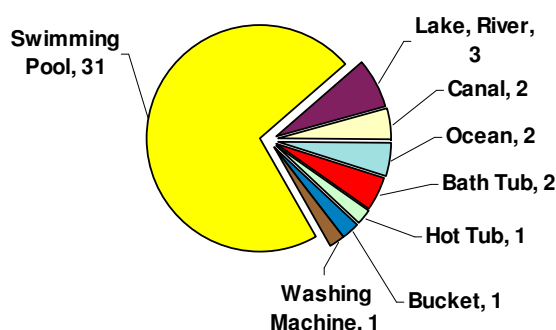
**2005 Drowning & Near-Drowning, Age 0-4
Rate/100,000 by Gender, Race & Ethnicity**



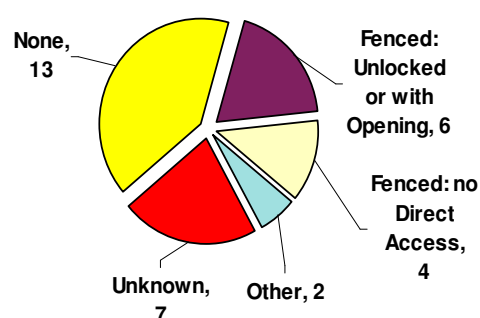
Where Incidents Occurred

- Thirty-two (74%) of age 0-4 drowning incidents occurred in swimming pools or hot tubs next to swimming pools. Twenty-one incidents were in residential in-ground pools, 4 were in apartment complex pools and 3 were in above-ground pools. Seven other deaths (16%) occurred in areas of natural water and 4 deaths occurred within the home (bath tub, bucket, washing machine). Regarding the 32 deaths that occurred in swimming pools, only 4 homes had evidence that proper fencing was around the pool that would prevent direct child access. Thirteen incidents occurred at swimming pools that had no fencing and allowed direct access by the child. Six deaths involved pools with fencing that was either unlocked, was propped open with a chair or provided an access point due to disrepair.

Location of Drowning



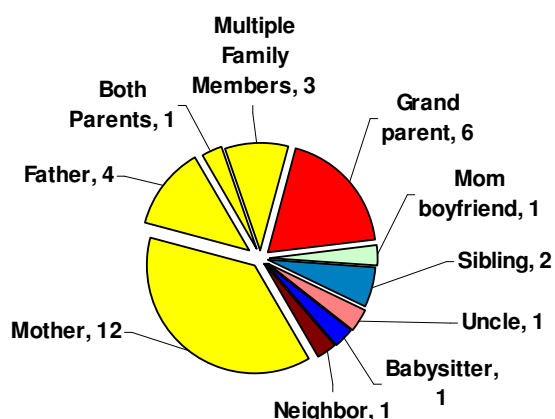
Type of Barrier Around Swimming Pool



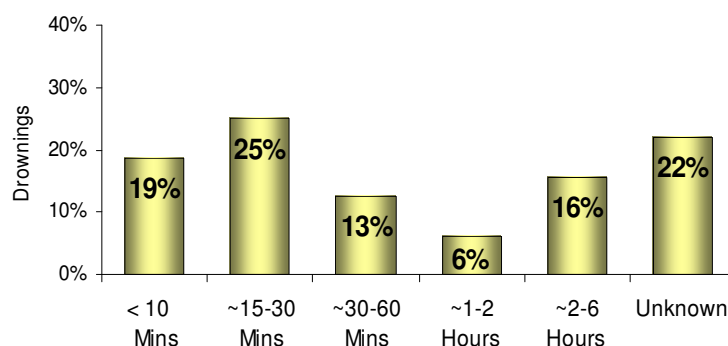
Supervision

- In nearly 2/3 of the pool drowning incidents, parents or multiple family members that included a parent were responsible for supervision of the child. Among the other 12 cases, the supervising individuals included babysitting grandparents (6) and siblings younger than 13 years old (2). In six cases (19%), the child was reported to be out of sight of the supervising individual for <10 minutes. Another 8 cases (25%) lost track of the child for between 15-30 minutes and 7 children (22%) were unsupervised for >1 hour. There was no difference in the amount time the child was left unsupervised between parent and non-parent supervisors.

Who was Supervising Child

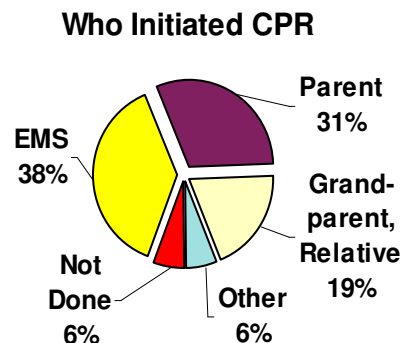
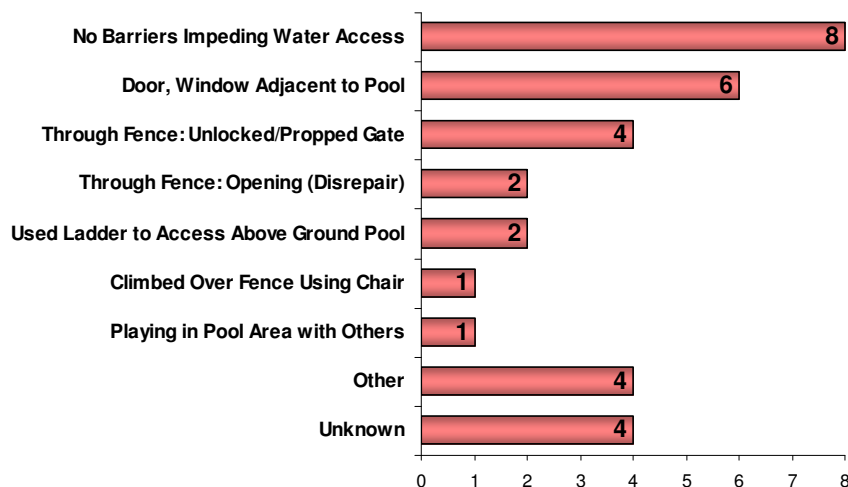


Elapsed Time When Child was Last Seen Alive



Child Access

In 8 cases, the supervising individual 'lost track of the child' in a swimming pool environment that had no protective fencing around the pool. The most common methods of accessing a pool area were either through a window or sliding glass door adjacent to the pool area (6 deaths) or through an opening in a fence surrounding the pool (6 deaths). In 38% of drowning incidents, CPR was not administered to the victim until an EMS provider arrived at the scene.



Drowning Prevention

The Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida in collaboration with the Florida Department of Health developed the following drowning prevention recommendations.

- Children can drown in a matter of seconds. If a child is missing, check the water first.
- There is no substitute for adequate supervision. Children need to be watched. Never leave children unattended in or around pools or spas - not even for a second.
- A child can drown in less time than it takes to answer the telephone.
- Children drown in pools, spas, buckets, toilets and bathtubs. A child can drown in as little as one inch of water.
- Empty buckets immediately after use and store them upside down and out of a child's reach.
- Never allow a young child to be responsible for a younger sibling or playmate.

The key to preventing swimming pool tragedies is to have layers of protection. This includes placing barriers around your pool to prevent access, using door alarms, closely supervising your child and being prepared in case of an emergency.

- Never disable an alarm or prop open the gate to a swimming pool barrier.
- Learn to swim and teach children how to swim.
- Flotation devices and swimming lessons are not a substitute for adult supervision.
- Remove toys from in and around the pool area, especially riding toys.
- Knowing cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) can be a lifesaver.

Produced by the Miami-Dade County Injury Surveillance System

Data Sources: Death Certificates & Miami-Dade Medical Examiner Dept.

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<http://dadehealth.org/injury/INJURYintro.asp>

